

Sanctified – 1 Corinthians 6:9-20

As believers in Jesus Christ, we are set apart in Christ to live holy lives.

Remember, during the first week of this study on Unpacking the Language of Faith, we defined holy as “Worthy of complete devotion as one perfect in goodness and righteousness. God is Holy. He is unique in His character and attributes. God has separated followers of Jesus to be holy, separating them to be devoted to Him.

Sanctified -To be set apart to a special purpose or to religious use; consecrated. To be sanctified is to be made holy. It is a state of being.

- Four times in scripture, God tells us to “Be holy, because I am Holy.” I Peter 1:15-16, Leviticus 11:44, 19:2, and 20:7.

Sanctification - the process of being made holy resulting in a changed lifestyle for the believer in Christ. Sanctification begins at the point of your faith in Jesus and is a continuous process of spiritual growth.

- The English word “sanctification” comes from the Latin *sanctification* meaning the act or process of making holy, consecrated.
- God is separate. He is Holy. People dedicated to Him and His work are separate from others in the world.
- Sanctification is linked to the salvation experience and is concerned with the moral and spiritual obligations assumed in that experience. We are set apart to God in conversion, and we live out that dedication to God in holiness.
- I Corinthians 6:11 confirms the work of the Holy Spirit in conversion as a sanctification, making the believer holy so as to come before God in acceptance.
- Believers should pursue sanctification/holiness as an essential aspect of their lives.

A few weeks ago, Bro. Mike’s message was from I Corinthians 6:1-8. These scriptures tell us how to live among other Christians. Today’s lesson might have been his follow-up sermon the next Sunday. Paul continues to help us understand the process of being set apart, as Christians, from the rest of the world. That is what it means to be **sanctified**. God is giving us a lesson, through these scriptures of how we, His people, are called to demonstrate our relationship to Him through our behavior. We are to live godly lives and proclaim His message of salvation to others.

I Corinthians 6:9-11 We are set apart from our old way of life.

V. 9 – Who are the unrighteous and what is the Kingdom of God?

- Jesus spoke about the Kingdom of God. (Mark 1:15). Sometimes He called it the Kingdom of Heaven. (Matthew 13:31) -God is the sovereign ruler of His Kingdom. - In the New Testament, Jesus Christ is exalted as the King.

- The New Testament speaks of the Kingdom of God as both a present reality and a future hope. When Jesus, the King, appeared on Earth, He inaugurated the Kingdom of God. It exist on Earth in the hearts of believers in Christ, and it will come in its completeness at Jesus's return. Jesus will defeat all of God's enemies, and hand the Kingdom over to His father. (I Corinthians 15:24-26

- In verses 9-11, Paul explains who will and who will not have a part of God's Kingdom.

Who will not be a part of God's Kingdom? (v.9-10) *"The unrighteous will not inherit God's Kingdom."*

This includes: sexually immoral people, idolaters, adulterers, homosexuals, thieves, greedy people, drunkards, verbally abusive people, and swindlers.

- But, there is hope for these people. They can be forgiven this sins through God's grace and the power of Jesus' blood.
- Those of us who have been sanctified are to live apart from these vices. They should not characterize the lifestyle of a believer in Christ.
- Once you accept Christ as your Savior, you should not go back to your old was of life. *"And some of you used to be like this."*
- Corinth was an important metropolitan center when Paul visited there. Their main worship was of Greek Gods, especially Apollo, Athena, and Aphrodite. It was a port city and was known for its licentious lifestyle consisting of sexual pleasures of all kinds.
- Paul spent 18 months in Corinth on his 2nd missionary journey. He knew the culture of Corinth.

Who will be a part of God's Kingdom? (v.11) Those who have been sanctified. Those who believe in Jesus Christ and are washed in His blood. Those who are *"justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."*

- Three terms are used in verse 11 that demonstrate how people can change and become part of God's Kingdom. Notice also, that the entire Trinity is a part of this change.
 - o **Washed** – in the blood of Jesus. You are cleansed from the pollution of sin in your life.
 - o **Sanctified** – you are set apart by God as His own. This is not a one- time event, but for all of your life. You are set apart for God's purposes and His use. You are to become Christ-like and grow in your faith.
 - o **Justified** – You are declared righteous and have a right relationship with God. This is done by the Holy Spirit of God. God forgives your sin and forgets it – just as if – you had never sinned.

I Corinthians 6:12-17 We are set apart to be one with Christ.

V. 12 – *"Everything is permissible for me."* Corinthian believers were using this as a slogan to excuse their immoral behavior.

- Paul is about to introduce a series of admonitions emphasizing a dominant theme in this letter to the Corinthian Church. The immature and new Christians were taking their “freedom” in Christ too far. They were claiming that nothing was inappropriate for a Christian whose sins God had forgiven.

- Paul uses this saying of the immature Christian twice in this verse to emphasize that a believer’s freedom in Christ is to be limited to that which pleases the Lord. Read Romans 6:1-14. It tells about a new believer’s life in Christ. “You are not under law but under grace.

“But I will not be mastered by anything.” Paul uses this statement to correct the misbelief about freedom in Christ. Paul also addressed this issue with the church at Galatia. *“Christ has liberated us into freedom. Therefore, stand firm and don’t submit again to a yoke of slavery.”* Galatians 5:1 Christians need to stand firm and reject the sin with which the world tempts them. When you trust in Christ as Savior, you also accept him as Lord of your life. Your sins are forgiven. Why would you want to go back to the old way of life and continue to sin?

As a Christian you ARE NOT to have the attitude that you can do what you want, and think what you want. This leads to enslavement of your own passions. You are to live a life that pleases God. Remember. You can be Sanctified – set apart – for God’s purposes.

Paul goes on to tell these Corinthians (and us) that we are to be careful with the example we set. We are not to be a “stumbling block” to weaker believers or those who don’t believe in Christ. *“But be careful that this right of yours in no way becomes a stumbling block to the weak.”* (1 Corinthians 8:9) A Christian has to be aware not only of his or her own spiritual well-being, but also of the spiritual well-being of others.

V. 13 – Paul is correcting a viewpoint held by the Corinthian Christians. They believed that things in this world, the physical realm, were unimportant, and that their actions relating to them did not really matter. That is why they were so complacent to their attitudes about sex, food, marriage, etc. Paul gives them God’s viewpoint. Paul addresses the issue of sexual immorality and marriage in chapters 5-7.

“However, the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.” He reemphasizes this in verses 19-20. *“You are not your own, for you were bought with a price.”* The Corinthians would have related this as a slave being owned by his master. They also questioned the resurrection of Jesus, and therefore the resurrection of believers.

V. 14 – Paul makes a firm statement about the resurrection of Christ, and of believers. Christians understand that the definition of “resurrection” is: the future, bodily rising from the dead of all persons; Believers in Christ rise to eternal life and eternity with God; unbelievers rise to eternal torment and separation from God.

Paul knew and preached that the resurrection of Jesus was an historical event and a supernatural act of God. Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-28. Paul includes these scriptures in this same letter to the church at Corinth to say that the resurrection of Christ guarantees our resurrection.

V.15 – 17 In these verses Paul calls believers to remember the oneness and sanctity of their union with Christ. Since Christians are joined with Christ, they should never join their body sexually outside the bonds of marriage.

The body of Christ is the church. The church is made up of the believers in its congregation. V.17 tells us that, *“anyone joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.”* Believers in Christ are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. Paul had written earlier in this letter about Spiritual wisdom – I Corinthians 2:6-16.

We as Christians are to live and proclaim the Gospel. God gives the believers Spiritual discernment to understand the deep things of God. 1 Corinthians 2: 15-16 – *“The spiritual person, however, can evaluate everything, yet he himself cannot be evaluated by anyone. For who has known the Lord’s mind, that he may instruct Him? But, we have the mind of Christ.”*

V. 18- 20 We are set apart to glorify God.

- Paul gives a strong directive – FLEE SEXUAL IMMORALITY! Why is sexual immorality such a unique sin? It is a sin against the body. As a believer in Christ, your body is a sacred vessel. How is it a sin against the body? It affects a person not only morally, but mentally, emotionally, spiritually, and many times physically.

- **“Don’t you know?”** This reminds me of reprimanding my own child when he made a really unwise decision. But, for the Christian, Paul is saying, “you should know this, and act accordingly.”

“Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God.” Paul uses the word temple as a metaphor for your body. A Christian should have self-awareness that their identity is uniquely tied to God. He lives within you. Would you defile your body knowing that God is present there? “You are not your own.” You gave your life to Christ.

V. 20 - *“For you were bought with a price. So glorify God with your body.”*

Jesus paid it all. The price he paid was his own life’s blood, which he gave freely, for the redemption of your sins. So, how do we as believers respond? You are to glorify God with your body. You have no business doing anything with your body that does not bring glory to God.

You as a believer are set apart in Christ to live a holy life. You are sanctified.

Pray this week that God will give you a heart that longs to be pure and holy. Thank Him for the power of the Holy Spirit who makes that possible in you.

How will you use your body this week to glorify God?